

**Town of Haddam
Board of Finance Meeting
July 19, 2023
Approved Minutes**

In attendance	Absent	Others in attendance
Centofanti (Chairman)	Bayley	McGarry (First Selectman)
Rutty (Vice Chairman)	Baird (Alternate)	Harter (Finance Director)
Adelberg (Secretary)	Pullman (Alternate)	
DeBold		
Wells		
Simko		
Lundgren (Alternate)		

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Centofanti called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Seating of Alternates: N/A

Approval of Minutes:

May 17, 2023: Debold made a motion, seconded by Simko to approve the May 17, 2023 minutes. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Communications: Chairman Centofanti reported that two letters, one from Kate Anderson, Chairman of the EDC and one from Town & Country Nurseries were submitted to the Board in favor of the Tylerville Business Interruption Grant Program. (Attached)

Tax Collectors Report: Tax Collector's report was reviewed.

Finance Directors Report: (Attached as Schedule I)

Selectman's Update: (Attached as Schedule II)

Old Business: N/A

New Business:

- a. **Regional School District No. 17 – Teachers Union Contract negotiations:** Chairman Centofanti reported under State Statutes, the Board of Finance can appoint a representative to observe the Teachers Negotiations. Any Finance Member interested can contact the Chair of the Board of Finance.
- b. **Town-funded Tylerville Business Interruption Grant Program:** McGarry described the program for eligible businesses which are impacted by the 63-hour closure of the Swing Bridge. There was a brief discussion. Rutty made a motion, seconded by DeBold to approve an appropriation from the APRA fund for \$500,000 for the Tylerville Business Interruption Program and send the appropriation to Town meeting for approval. Motion carried unanimously. (Attached as Schedule III)

Public Comment: Lou Milardo of Rivers Edge Home Center described the challenges businesses are having with the bridge closures. Gianna Milardo has reached out to the area businesses to ask how they are existing due to the lack of traffic and remarked the town is receiving more revenue with the addition of Blue Way Commons. Karin Blaschik of Alan's Small Engine Service remarked on how they are offering customers special delivery services.

Adjournment: Ratty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm. Minutes taken by Ann Harter.

July 14, 2022

Dear Chairman Centofanti and Members of the Board of Finance:

As you know, the CTDOT has initiated complete closures of the Haddam/East Haddam Swing Bridge weekly from Sunday to Wednesday scheduled for nearly half of 2023. This fact is having a profound negative impact on the small businesses along Bridge Road and Saybrook Road in the Tylerville section of town.

Those businesses have contacted the First Selectman and the Economic Development Commission (EDC) seeking assistance because of this unavoidable difficulty.

Running a small business in a small town is a very difficult endeavor even in the good times. But this small section of town, that provides significant tax revenue, important goods/services and job opportunities to those in this community, has been hit with multiple challenges over the last five (5) years, with no end in sight. Now, CTDOT expects to begin a round-about project at the intersection of Bridge and Saybrook Road on the heels of the bridge rehabilitation.

The challenges in Tylerville began years ago with a major construction project to bring clean drinking water to the same area, followed by a global pandemic, followed by a sidewalk construction project and then a total rehabilitation of the Swing Bridge. The businesses endured all of these projects. They survived because of the significant regional traffic flow; over 10,000 cars per day continued through the area, albeit significant congestion, between eastern and western Connecticut. These commuters would stop to patronize these businesses in Tylerville; this is the life blood for these small businesses. The straw that broke the camel's back was a complete shutdown of the bridge for multiple days each week. The high traffic volumes that once existed on Bridge Road on Sunday night, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday are now gone. The road has become a ghost town during these shutdowns, which are projected to last nearly into the holiday season.

At the July 12 EDC meeting, the Commission heard impassioned pleas from the businesses. We then voted to allocate over half of our annual budget to assist them with advertising the fact that the businesses are open and need local support. They are grateful for these vital infrastructure improvements and recognize the value they are adding to the area but are truly concerned about the staggering financial repercussions of these nonstop disruptions.

The committee also discussed at length and unanimously approved the attached *Business Interruption Grant - Program Guidelines*. In a nutshell, this program would provide limited financial assistance to local businesses in the targeted areas to help cover a loss in sales for the months that the bridge is totally closed. As we saw with COVID, it is not unusual to assist businesses when an exogenous event, completely beyond their control, occurs. The project clearly represents such an event.

The EDC is anxious to administer this program to help these businesses. We are working on a program application and have already created a sub-committee. The sub-committee will review the confidential business information in executive session, approve the applications, then meet monthly to review losses. None of this is possible without the support of the Board of Finance.

We respectfully ask the Board of Finance to provide the funding for this crucial program to protect and preserve these necessary businesses in our town. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kate Anderson

Kate Anderson

Chair, Economic Development Commission

To: Town of Haddam EDC

From: Town and Country Nurseries

To whom it may concern:

Although when thinking about Tylerville our business is not generally associated, the bridge reconstruction has had a significant impact on us. We have been operating as a business here in Haddam for 71 years. Our business is retail, having a storefront, landscaping division and a floral department. The bridge reconstruction has impacted our business in all areas. We have noticed a significant decline in foot traffic on Mondays and Tuesdays, which used to be busier days. In addition, we have lost floral orders in the East Haddam and Haddam Neck areas on these days because of timed deliveries we could not feasibly accommodate. It is not reasonable for us to go either to Old Lyme or Middletown to get to the Opera House or some other location on the other side of the bridge due to the financial constraints of the floral orders. Paying an employee to wait for the ferry crossing for a floral delivery is not cost effective either unfortunately. In addition, we have landscaping jobs that have had to be reconfigured due to the scheduling of the "bridge project".

We hope that we can be included in the businesses impacted by this bridge project. We have lived and worked in this community for generations.

With thanks for your time

Carolyn Glazier, Andrea Mekrut and Lauren Livingston

Town and Country Nurseries

July 19, 2023 – Board of Finance Meeting Schedule I

Finance Director's Report					
As of June 30, 2023					
ACCOUNTS OVER BUDGET BY \$3000 (1)					
	Account Number	Account Description	Month Occurred	Budget Variance	Explanation
General Fund					
	<u>Revenue accounts</u>				
	Total	Tax Collections		288,242.77	Net Tax Collections rec'd over 100% of estimate
	Total	State of Connecticut		246,223.11	Rec'd over 100% of estimate - Municipal Revenue Sharing
	Total	Licenses, Fees, & Permits		142,673.69	Rec'd over 100% of estimate
	Total	Interest Income		423,241.02	Variable interest rates from .10% to 4.7%
	Total	Miscellaneous		32,477.79	Red'd CIRMA Member Equity Distribution
	<u>Expenditure accounts over budget</u>				
	01-20-200-66-20009	Truck Maintenance	Apr	(10,313.26)	Increased costs to repair apparatus
	01-30-310-14-31000	Custodial Wages - PT	May	(5,231.25)	Additional hours to clean town buildings
	01-30-310-66-31013	HES Operating Cost	Apr	(15,644.23)	Electricity higher than anticipated
	01-30-310-66-31015	Maint of Town Prop/Buildings	May	(7,867.77)	New Air Handler for Town Office Building
	01-30-335-63-33507	Recycling	June	(3,536.41)	Transportation and disposal fees higher than anticipated.
	01-50-503-86-50301	Field Maintenance	May	(6,788.00)	Additional maintenance at Duval Field
	01-50-503-86-50302	Facilities Maintenance	Apr	(3,709.65)	Purchase order for playground equipment and installation
	DEPARTMENTS OVER BUDGET				
	01-10-020-XX-XXXXX	Elections		(8,501.25)	Overages due to extra election (Primary August 2022)
	01-50-503-XX-XXXXX	Park & Rec Commission		(11,031.70)	Actual deficit depends on timing of playground equipment installation
Capital Nonrecurring					
	<u>Expenditure accounts</u>				
Public Works	17-30-300-74-30008	19-DUBLIN HILL BRDG RENO		(3,809.11)	Budget doesn't reflect add'l state reimbursements. Project is closed.
(1) Per Section 9.4 c 2 - Transfers within agencies of amounts exceeding \$3,000.00 shall require Board of Finance approval.					

July 19, 2023 – Board of Finance Meeting Schedule II

BOF Meeting Selectman's Update 2023-07-19

Projects

- Rossi Property
- Scovil Hoe
- HES
 - State approved our selection of roofing contractor. We'll do the work required on the old section of the building (\$468,500). We'll re-bid the gym roof for asphalt shingles versus metal roofing.
 - We posted an RFP for an architectural firm to do a building condition and utilization study for moving municipal functions into HES. Due 7/27.
- Swing Bridge
 - This will be a tough year for our Tylerville businesses. Please patronize them.
 - Business Interruption Grant Program
 - The project is on schedule.
- Bridge Road/Haddam Center Sidewalks – Nothing to report
- Tylerville Water
- Private Projects
 - Blueway Commons
 - 105 Bridge Road apartments
- Road work
 - Culvert washout on Old Chester at Dudley Clark – Repair work will delay starting on Cedar Lake Rd
 - TOB parking lot will be paved this year. Working on scheduling
 - Ruth Hill will have millings put on it.
 - Silver Springs Drive – Fog sealing will require closing road for hours. Will address with residents.

Personnel

- Resident Trooper interview conducted. CSP will make assignment
- Accepting applications for FD Assistant until 7/22.
- JoAnn out until 7/24.

Other

- Conducted the Saybrook Road Road Safety Analysis site walk with DOT on 6/14. Approximately 17 people from DOT. I expect to get a preliminary report this month. (P.S. – There are no plans for a roundabout in Higganum Center.)

July 19, 2023 – Board of Finance Meeting Schedule III

Haddam BOF Meeting
July 19, 2023

Resolution 2024-01

Amount

Appropriation of \$500,000 for the Tylerville Business Interruption Program

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Finance of the Town of Haddam approves an appropriation from the APRA fund for \$500,000 for the Tylerville Business Interruption Program and send the appropriation to Town meeting for approval.

\$ 500,000